

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (New): A process for working up 4- β -sulfatoethylsulfonylaniline-2-sulfonic acid from a solution in aqueous sulfuric acid, which comprises

a first step of either precipitating the 4- β -sulfatoethylsulfonylaniline-2-sulfonic acid by addition of alkali metal, alkaline earth metal and/or ammonium salts, separating the precipitate from the solution and dissolving said precipitate in water, or precipitating the sulfuric acid by addition of calcium salts with the resulting calcium sulfate precipitate optionally being separated off, and

a second step of adjusting the resultant solution to a pH between 1 and 5 by addition of alkali metal, alkaline earth metal or ammonium hydroxide, carbonate, bicarbonate and/or acetate, with any calcium sulfate precipitate still present being separated off, and thereafter isolating the 4- β -sulfatoethylsulfonylaniline-2-sulfonic acid from the solution.

Claim 8 (New): The process according to claim 7 wherein the 4- β -sulfatoethylsulfonylaniline-2-sulfonic acid is precipitated by the addition of 1 to 10 mol equivalents of sodium, potassium and/or ammonium salts in the first step.

Claim 9 (New): The process according to claim 7 wherein the salts in the first step are selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, sodium sulfate, potassium chloride and potassium sulfate.

Claim 10 (New): The process according to claim 7 wherein the 4- β -sulfatoethylsulfonylaniline-2-sulfonic acid is isolated in the second step by precipitating with sodium, potassium and/or ammonium salts or by spray drying.

Claim 11 (New): The process according to claim 10 wherein the 4- β -sulfatoethylsulfonylaniline-2-sulfonic acid is isolated in the second step by precipitating with 1 to 10 mol equivalents of said salts.

Claim 12 (New): The process according to claim 10 wherein the salts are selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride and the sodium sulfate as the sodium salts and potassium chloride and potassium sulfate as the potassium salts.